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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. Beiersdorf 597-WCG

First Inventor or Application Identifier Oliver NICKEL

Title [See "Appendix"]

Express Mail Label No. EE473057863US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Specification [Total Pages 10]
 - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 1]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages]
 a. Newly executed (original or copy)
 b. Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
 (for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
 Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

[NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).]

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5. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Copy
 - b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement Power of (when there is an assignee) Attorney
9. English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
11. Preliminary Amendment
12. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
 - * Small Entity Statement(s) Statement filed in prior application, (PTO/SB/09-12)
 13. Status still proper and desired
 14. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
 15. Other:

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: /

Prior application information: Examiner _____

Group / Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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Beiersdorf 597-WCG
1120-Dr. Di-hf 98/145

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Oliver NICKEL

Serial No. : TBA

Filed : Herewith

For : MASKING STRIP AND THE USE THEREOF

Art Unit : TBA

Examiner : TBA

November 2, 1999

Box NEW APPLICATIONS
Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In advance of prosecution, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows
and consider the following remarks:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 2 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]

wherein the adhesive tape (1) is a heat-resistant adhesive tape [for the automobile painter,
a so-called "masking tape,"] with a heat resistance of [especially] a maximum of 130°C (1

hour).

Claim 3 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein the adhesive tape (1) is 15-75 mm wide[, especially 19-30 mm wide].

Claim 4 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein the paper support (2) is creped, stretchable and flexible and has good paint adhesion, and the entire adhesive tape (1) has a thickness of 100-250 μm [, especially 130-200 μm].

Claim 5 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein the masking paper (5) is an unbleached kraft paper of 30-40 g/m² and a width of [especially] 15-50 cm[, very especially 20-40 cm].

Claim 6 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein the masking film (6) is a polyolefin film 7-40[, especially 8-20] μm thick, [especially of polyolefin, especially polyethylene, and especially] which is corona pretreated, [whose width amounts especially to] and is 0.5-2 m wide.

Claim 7 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein the masking film (6) is folded [extensibly, especially] according to the dimensions of the masking paper (5) and is folded against the latter accordion-wise.

Claim 8 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the marginal area (4) of the self-adhesive composition (3) to which the masking paper (5) adheres, is 1-5[, especially 2-4] mm wide.

Claim 9 (amended). Masking strip according to Claim 1, [characterized in that it is] wound into a roll, the masking film (6) being folded and the length of the roll corresponding approximately to the width of the masking paper (5) plus the width of the adhesive tape (1).

Claim 10, please cancel.

Please insert the following:

-- 11. A method for painting an automobile, wherein parts of the automobile are not to be painted, which comprises masking parts of said automobile which are not to be painted with a masking strip according to Claim 1. --

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed to conform the claims to conventional format.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as Express Mail, Label No. EE473057863US, in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 28, 1999.

NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.
By William C. Gerstenzang
Date 11/2/99

Masking Strip and the Use Thereof

The invention relates to a masking strip for covering certain parts especially when painting automobiles, and the use thereof. Especially provided is the masking of medium to large surfaces which must not come in contact with paint during finish repair work in automobile repair shops.

Such masking strips and covers are known and widely in use. Standard materials include special papers or newsprint of approximately 50 g weight, but also folded plastic covers approximately 30 µm thick (approx. 30 g/m²), or “endless” films from a large roll (2 m wide) plus “2 in 1” systems which are folded polyethylene films combined with adhesive tape, and lastly also polyethylene-coated papers combined with adhesive tape.

The main requirements of such masking systems are:

- Paint adhesion – after oven drying the paint must not fall from the masking material onto the fresh paint.
- Waste – a low volume of waste is important, since the cost of disposal is determined accordingly.
- Number of persons – Normally a car is worked on by only one painter. Therefore the masking should be easy for one person to apply.

- Number of working steps – few and quick working steps are called for.
- Material consumption: To apply the masking a temperature-appropriate masking tape is necessary. The consumption of masking material and adhesive tape is to be low.

The masking strips and the like that are known heretofore satisfy such requirements to only a limited extent.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimum paint adhesion even when the paint applied in the marginal area is thick. • Low cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint strike-through, particularly when paint application is too thick in the marginal area. • Masking must be provided with adhesive tape after application. • Masking not dispensed directly onto the vehicle. Thus, to some extent, too much material is consumed, since often too much or too little paper is dispensed.
Plastic covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No paint strike-through. • The entire vehicle is covered. • The plastic masking can easily be trimmed to expose the area that is to be painted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint adhesion not the best • Relatively greater cost per square meter. • Great material consumption since always only the entire area can be masked. • Masks usually have paint on them, so that in the masked state the cars cannot be moved about.
Endless film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See plastic covering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See plastic covering (exception: material consumption since partial covering can also be used).

2-in-1 systems, folded films with masking tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No strike-through of paint in the case of films. • No paint strike-through, and sufficient adhesion in the case of polyethylene-coated paper. • Dispensed onto the vehicle • manually • not much • Little waste with polyethylene film 10 µm thick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimum result only when both products are used (i.e., paper in the edges and film on the wide surface) • Both products are equipped with masking tape • Due to the coating (lamination) and the bleach (white), paper is not environmentally friendly and is expensive.
Polyethylene coated paper with masking tape		

It was the purpose of the invention to provide a remedy here, and especially to create a masking strip in which a cheap, absorbent paper can be used, especially one which is not coated, coated with polyethylene, for example, and which can therefore be disposed of more easily and in a more environmentally acceptable manner, but which at the same time has good adhesion for lacquer and the like (paint adhesion).

This purpose is accomplished with a masking tape as is characterized in the claims.

The invention thus combines the very good properties of papers as regards paint adhesion and the very good properties of films in regard to the prevention of paint strike-through, in a handy product.

The products thus comprise three products in one and can therefore be called a "3-in-one"

product. The components are paper, film and backing. The following are preferred:

- as the paper: 30 - 40 g/m² unbleached kraft paper, 20 - 40 cm wide
- as the film: 10 µm (= 10 g/m²) pretreated (corona) polyethylene film (surface tension approximately 2000 mm. Variable length, as a rule between 10 and 30 m.
- as the adhesive tape: adhesive tape approximately 25 mm wide, heat resistant (about 80°C) for the car painter (e.g., "tesa" 4309 etc.).

The paper serves to absorb the heavier paint application in the marginal area of the paint and to hold tight even after the oven drying, so that no paint can fall onto the still soft, fresh lacquer. The film is preferably prepared by the corona treatment so that a paint mist will be securely attached to it. Furthermore, the film prevents paint from striking through the paper onto the lacquer.

In detail the following product advantages result:

- Optimum paint adhesion, a) in the critical marginal area on account of the absorbent paper, and b) on the rest of the mask surface due to the specially treated film,
- Optimum protection by the film against paint strike-through.

- Considerably less waste due to the thinness of the film (e.g., thickness 5x less than 50 g paper),
- Handled by only one person due to the handy shape and the premanufactured product.
- Optimum consumption of material, a) in regard to the mask material due to direct dispensing to the vehicle, and b) in connection with the adhesive tape due to the standardized width, e.g., 25 mm
- Saving of time due to small number of work steps (3 in 1).

Product advantages in comparison to the "2 in 1" system:

- Inexpensive, untreated standard kraft paper, with which the painter is familiar, can be used,
- Marginal area and large surface covered in a single operation,
- Masking tape is needed only once.

The invention is to be described below with the aid of an example, without any intention of limiting it unnecessarily.

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic side view of a masking strip according to the invention with a folded masking film,

Fig. 2 a view as in Fig. 1, but with partially unfolded masking film, and

Fig. 3 a view as in Fig. 1, but now the masking film is entirely unfolded.

In particular, Figures 1 - 3 show an adhesive tape 1 comprising a paper support 2 and a contact adhesive 3. Especially suitable for it is a heat-resistant so-called "masking tape," which withstands oven drying at up to 130°C (1 hour), commercially obtainable from Beiersdorf AG, Germany, as "tesa 4309," width 25 mm, thickness 170 µm, adhesion to steel 8.75 N/25 mm. On the one marginal area 4 of this adhesive tape (1) an unbleached kraft paper 5, 30 cm wide, 35 g/m², is adhered as a masking paper 5 on a width of 3 mm. Alongside this masking paper 5 a masking film 6 is adhered onto the next part of this marginal area 4, a corona-treated polyethylene film 1 m wide and 10 µm thick and folded.

The folding of the masking film 6 is known in itself and is performed in the known manner to which the user is accustomed, the entire masking strip being wound in a roll for ease of use.

Claims

1. Masking strip comprised of:
 - a) a heat-resistant adhesive tape (1) with a paper support (2) and a self-adhesive composition (3),
 - b) a masking paper (5) duplexed onto the marginal area (4) of the self-adhesive composition (3) and having good paint adhesion and absorbency, as well as
 - c) a masking film (6) duplexed onto precisely the same marginal area (4) of the self-adhesive composition (3),
 - d) the masking film (6) completely covering the masking paper (5) on the side on which the self-adhesive composition (3) of the adhesive tape (1) is situated, and thus lying behind the masking paper (5) in the adhered state.
2. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive tape (1) is a heat-resistant adhesive tape for the automobile painter, a so-called "masking tape," with a heat resistance of especially a maximum 130°C (1 hour).
3. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive tape (1) is 15 - 75 mm wide, especially 19 - 30 mm wide.
4. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the paper support (2) is creped, stretchable and flexible and has good paint adhesion, and the entire adhesive tape (1) has a

thickness of 100 - 250 µm, especially 130 - 200 µm.

5. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the masking paper (5) is an unbleached kraft paper of 30 - 40 g/m² and a width of especially 15 - 50 cm, very especially 20 - 40 cm.
6. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the masking film (6) is a film 7 - 40, especially 8 - 20 µm thick, especially of polyolefin, especially polyethylene, and especially corona pretreated, whose width amounts especially to 0.5 - 2 m.
7. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the masking film (6) is folded extensibly, especially according to the dimensions of the masking paper (5) and is folded against the latter accordion-wise.
8. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the marginal area (4) of the self-adhesive composition (3) to which the masking paper (5) adheres, is 1 - 5, especially 2 - 4 mm wide.
9. Masking strip according to claim 1, characterized in that it is wound into a roll, the masking film (6) being folded and the length of the roll corresponding approximately to the width of the masking paper (5) plus the width of the adhesive tape (1).

10. Use of a masking strip according to any one of claims 1 - 9 for masking parts that are not to be painted, especially in automobile painting.

Abstract

Masking strip comprised of:

- e) a heat-resistant adhesive tape (1) with a paper support (2) and a self-adhesive composition (3),
- f) a masking paper (5) with good paint adhesion and absorbency duplexed in the marginal area (4) of the self-adhesive composition, as well as
- g) a masking film (6) duplexed in the same marginal area of the self-adhesive composition (3),
- h) the masking film (6) completely covering the masking paper (5) on the side on which the self-adhesive composition (3) of the adhesive tape (1) is situated and thus lies behind the masking paper (5) in the adhered state.

Fig. 1

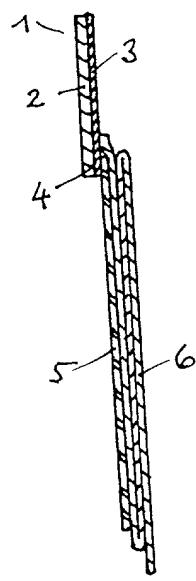


Fig. 2

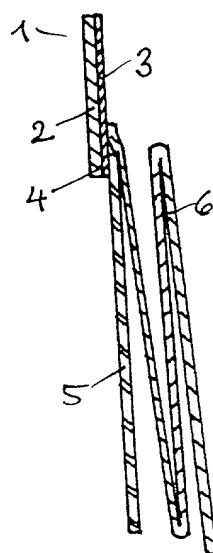


Fig. 3

